THE PORT LAWS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1997

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Ports Act, 1908 and the Major Port Trusts Act, 1963.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

THE NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR SAFAI KARAMCHARIS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1997

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): Sir, on behalf of my colleague, Shri Balwant Singh Ramoowalia, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to amend the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis Act, 1993.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI AJIT P.K. JOGI): Now, we shall take up the Railway Budget.

RE: AUDIT REPORTS FOR 1995-96

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL (Rajasthan): Sir, I drew your kind attention yesterday and earlier also that the Audit Reports for the year 1995-96 had not been made available to the Members of Parliament. You read out something from the Finance Ministry. Today we find in the newspapers that some portions of the Report have been published. I went to the Publications Counter. Right now I am coming from there after enquiring about the availability of the Audit Reports. They have told me that they have not received the Audit Reports for being made available to the Members of Parliament. What is this? We are going to have a discussion on General Budget on Monday. How will we dispose of the financial business? What is this Government doing? They have no business.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU): Sir, we have not yet received these Reports from the Comptroller and Auditor General.

SHRI S.B. CHAVAN (Maharashtra): Then how are you going to discuss them?...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: Yesterday the reports with regard to Customs and Excise were laid on the Table. These reports are also not available with the Publications Counter. ...(*Interruptions*)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI AJIT P.K. JOGI): We have received a communication ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: I think it is regarding the U.P. Reports. ...(*Interruptions*)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI AJIT P.K. JOGI): No, no, there is a communication which has just come before me. I will just read it out. It is in regard to what we discussed yesterday in connection with the question raised by you. It says, "It is understood that some of the Members of the Rajya Sabha have been asking for the Annual Report of the Ministry of Finance. This is to inform you that the Annual Report of the Ministry of Finance is due latest by 19th March, 1997, as per the D.O. letter dated February, 13, 1997 of the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs. We will present the Annual Report for the year 1996-97 before 19th March, 1997."

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: Sir, I am asking about the Audit Report, not the Annual Report.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI AJIT P.K. JOGI): There is another letter about the Audit Report. It says that they have not been received from the C & AG.

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: That is with regard to the other report which has not been received. I am asking those two reports which have already been laid on the Table of the House yesterday. You directed the hon. Minister to enquire about them. Even those two reports which have been laid on the Table of the House are not available at the Publications Counter. The reports are regarding Excise and Customs.